



A MINUTE OF HEALTH WITH CDC

Stray Kitten, Scary Problem, Safety First

Public Health Response to a Rabid Kitten — Four States, 2007

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This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC – safer, healthier people.

When you think “rabies,” you probably aren’t picturing kittens. Unfortunately, the degree of an animal’s ‘cuteness’ doesn’t have any relationship to whether it’s healthy or infected with rabies. When members of several girls’ softball teams spotted a stray kitten, they picked it up and took it along to their games. The kitten seemed healthy at first, but then developed signs of serious illness and tested positive for rabies. It bit at least two people.

It’s natural to feel compassion for stray animals, but rather than pick them up, call animal control. And veterinarians, remember to consider rabies when you see a stray that’s sick.

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